

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action of March 16, 2010 in which claims 1-5 and 12-20 were rejected and claims 6-11 and 21-23 were indicated as allowable but for their dependency on a rejected base claim. The Examiner's indication of allowable content in claims 6-11 and 21-23 is acknowledged and appreciated.

By this paper, claims 1, 5, 7, 16, 17, 22 and 23 have been amended, claims 6 and 20-21 have been canceled, and claims 24-25 have been added. No new matter has been introduced.

Reconsideration and formal allowance are requested.

Interview Summary

The interview between Examiner Mendez and Bridget Hayden on May 27, 2010 is appreciated. During the interview, potential claim amendments were discussed. It was agreed that the structural subject matter of the spring element from claim 6 would be incorporated into independent claim 1. Accordingly, it is believed that, upon entry of this paper, all outstanding issues have been resolved and the present application is in a condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes further discussion or an Examiner's amendment is necessary for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned or Bridget Hayden at (612) 492-6867.

Allowable Subject Matter

Again, the Examiner's indication that claims 6-11 and 21-24 contain allowable subject matter is acknowledged and appreciated.

In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 6. (Claim 6 has been canceled.) Accordingly, claims 2-5 and 7-15, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are patentable due to their dependency on claim 1, further in view of their additional recitations.

Independent claim 16 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 21. (Claim 21 has been canceled.) Accordingly, claims 17-19 and 22-23, which depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 16, are patentable due to their dependency on claim 16, further in view of their additional recitations.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In response, the claim has been amended to recite “the surface area of the cap comprises a wall, at least a portion of which is substantially rigid so as to not be elastically deformable.” Withdrawal of the § 112 rejection is requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 12, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 2,828,743 (Ashkenaz). Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 6. Claims 2-5 and 12 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons. Claim 16 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 21. Thus, the §102 rejection is obviated.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 13-15 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ashkenaz in view of U.S. Patent 6,575,955 (Azzolini) or U.S. Patent 5,445,631 (Uchida).

Claims 13-15 depend from claim 1, as amended, and are patentable for the same reasons, further in view of their additional recitations. Claims 17-19 depend from amended claim 16, and are patentable for the same reasons, further in view of their additional recitations. Claim 20 has been canceled.

New Claims

New claims 24 and 25 depend from amended claim 16 and are patentable for the same reason, further in view of their additional recitations.

Conclusion

Pursuant to the interview and in view of the above amendments and preceding comments, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

This paper is being submitted on or before September 16, 2010, and an extension of the time to respond until that date is requested. The required fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1420. No additional fees should be due in connection with this paper, but the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension fees or other relief which may be required, or credit any overpayment and notify us of same, to Deposit Account No. 04-1420.

The application now stands in allowable form, and formal allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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